



P E N N S Y L V A N I A W I L D L I F E A C T I O N P L A N 2015-2025



American Kestrel, Jacob Dingel

The only way to save a species is to never let it become rare.

Rosalie Edge, Founder of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 1877-1962

WHAT IS THE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN?

A non-regulatory, proactive conservation blueprint to prevent Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) from requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Updated from the first version published in 2005 and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Action Plan maintains Pennsylvania's eligibility for federal State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program funding. These funds are administered by the Fish & Boat and Game Commissions, who work with hundreds of statewide partners and volunteers to conserve the species and habitats noted in the Plan.



Blanding's Turtle, WPC/PHNP/R. Miller

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A proactive approach helps reduce the costs of fish and wildlife management by decreasing expensive recoveries of species in need of critical care.

Pennsylvania's natural resources are the foundation of our state's beauty and cultural heritage, and the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan provides the framework to secure these resources for future generations.

HOW CAN I HELP?

See *Take Action! Get Involved!* in Chapter 4. Some examples include:

Improve Habitats

- ✓ Plant milkweed & native wild flowers for monarch butterflies, bees & other pollinators
- ✓ Landscape with native plants
- ✓ Plant trees to protect streambanks

Species and Habitat Monitoring

- ✓ Birds (eBird)
- ✓ Bats (Appalachian Bat Count)
- ✓ PA Amphibian and Reptile Surveys (PARS)
- ✓ Butterflies (Monarch Watch and Pollinators)

Bats emerge at sunset, Stacy Wolbert

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ✓ Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- ✓ Habitat Associations and Condition
- ✓ Threats (environmental stressors)
- ✓ Conservation Actions
- ✓ Monitoring
- ✓ Revising the Plan
- ✓ Conservation Partner Involvement
- ✓ Public Involvement



PRIORITY SPECIES

- ✓ Cave bats
- ✓ Forest birds
- ✓ Turtles and snakes
- ✓ Frogs and salamanders
- ✓ Coldwater fishes
- ✓ Freshwater mussels
- ✓ Bees and butterflies

664
SPECIES OF GREATEST
CONSERVATION NEED



Birds[†] 90



Mammals 19



Amphibians 18



Reptiles 22



Fishes 65

Invertebrates[‡] 450

[†]Breeding, migrant, and wintering; [‡]Aquatic and terrestrial

PRIORITY HABITATS

WETLANDS



FORESTS



RIVERS & STREAMS



CAVES



KEY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- ✓ Technical assistance to landowners
- ✓ Surveys & monitoring to fill information gaps
- ✓ Forest structure management
- ✓ Dam removal & fish passage
- ✓ Invasive species control
- ✓ Species and habitat management plan development

In the end, the 2015-2025 State Wildlife Action Plan is a declaration -- an affirmation that each of these wild creatures is an important part of a vivid, vibrant Penn's Woods, and the birthright of every Pennsylvanian.

Scott Weidensaul, Wildlife Action Plan Foreword

Game Commission: www.pgc.pa.gov > Wildlife



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